Use of fertilizers

2613. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the States using large quantities of fertilizers are lagging behind in agriculture whereas the States using appropriate quantities of fertilizers have performed very well;

(b) if so, whether Government would provide this information to the farmers so that they don't use excess fertilizers in the fields;

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) Fertilizer is an important input in increasing foodgrain production in the country and the present level of consumption of 104.5 kg. per hectare in the country during 2005-06 cannot be considered excessive. The continued mining of nutrients in intensive cropping system in some parts of the country has led to nutrient deficiencies particularly of micro and secondary nutrients. The nutrient deficiencies coupled with falling organic carbon levels have impaired soil health and caused stagnation/decline in the crop productivity in some parts of the country.

(b) to (d) In order to minimize imbalance/excessive use of chemical fertilizers the Government is, accordingly, promoting Integrated Nutrient Management by advocating soil test based balanced and judicious use of chemical fertilizers including secondary nutrients and micro nutrients in conjunction with organic manures and bio-fertilizers. The Government is also educating farmers through training and field demonstrations on balanced use of fertilizers for improving soil fertility and its productivity.

PM's special rehabilitation package

2614. SHRI P.R. RAJAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether steps had been initiated to implement Prime Minister's special rehabilitation package to mitigate agrarian distress of farmers;

(b) if so, the details including the total amount granted and utilized at various heads like farm loans, credit flow, interest on loans, irrigation potential, seed replacement programme, check dam, dairy activity, etc. for last three years, year-wise, State-wise and category-wise;

(c) if so, the number of farmers benefited with above programme for the last three years, year-wise, State-wise and category-wise; and